



# Paradise Visitors Guide

2007



Paradise Inn  
ca. 1939

## Paradise Visitor Guide – Shuttles, Parking & More...

Paradise is the most popular visitor destination in Mount Rainier National Park with its spectacular subalpine meadows, miles of hiking, and jaw-dropping views of the mountain, glaciers, and the Tatoosh Range and, on a clear day, Washington’s southern Cascade peaks. Walls are rising on the new Paradise Visitor Center and chimneys and rock work are going back up on the Paradise Inn at the start of this second construction season. Over the next year the construction effort continues to focus on rehabilitation of the historic Paradise Inn and construction of the new visitor center. Paradise Inn will reopen in May 2008. Upon completion and opening of the new visitor center in fall 2008, the existing Jackson Visitor Center will be demolished and the lower parking lot will be redesigned. This guide provides information on parking and facilities. Shuttle schedules and information are available in a separate handout at entrance stations and visitor centers. A free shuttle running from Longmire to Paradise provides the opportunity to park at several locations along the way and ride the shuttle up – save gas and take in the view!

### Visiting Paradise

Paradise wildflower meadows, trails and the Jackson Visitor Center are open to visitors during construction of the new visitor center and rehabilitation of the Paradise Inn.

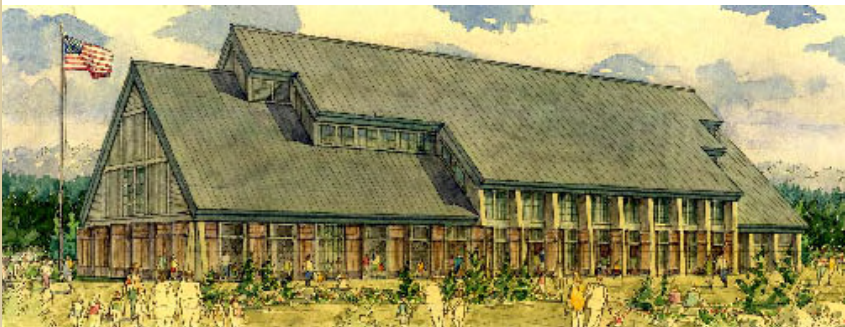
All traditional services and activities are available at Paradise with the exception of lodging during the complete closure of Paradise Inn and construction of the new visitor center. All normal activities and guest services remain available in all other areas of the park.

If you plan to visit Paradise during construction, be prepared for significantly reduced parking, construction noise, and to use alternate trailheads to reach trails in the upper meadow.

- The best time to visit Paradise is on weekdays, early or late in the day.
- If visiting on a weekend or holiday plan to arrive at Paradise by 9:00 a.m. or after 5:00 p.m. for the best parking opportunities. See page 7 for activities and other areas to visit prior to or following your visit to Paradise.
- Consider exploring other areas of the park or outside of the park during construction. See page 7 for information on activities outside of the Paradise area.

We hope you enjoy your visit to Mount Rainier, the nation’s fifth oldest national park.

Artist rendering of the new visitor center



### Facility Status

- The Jackson Visitor Center is open providing book and gift sales, dining at the Grill, nature walks, interpretive activities, and climbing permits.
- Paradise trails are open and accessible via trailheads near the visitor center, the main trailhead and Fourth Crossing. Access upper meadow trails via the main trailhead on the north side of the upper parking lot and Fourth Crossing off of Paradise Valley Road.
- Paradise Inn is closed. A variety of overnight accommodations, restaurants, and guest services are available in nearby communities and at the National Park Inn at Longmire.
- The Guide House is closed. The Climbing information operations have moved to the Jackson Visitor Center.
- Plan ahead for picnicking opportunities en route to Paradise. There is no designated picnic area at Paradise during construction. Picnicking is available at Cougar Rock or Narada Falls to the west of Paradise and Ohanapecosh and Box Canyon to the east.
- The walkway on the north side of the upper parking lot, the main trailhead, and the restrooms below the Guide House are open.

### Protecting Paradise

Help limit impacts and protect vegetation by parking only in designated parking spots, walking and hiking on roads and trails, and by staying off vegetation while waiting for the shuttle.







# Parking and Shuttles



## Parking at Paradise

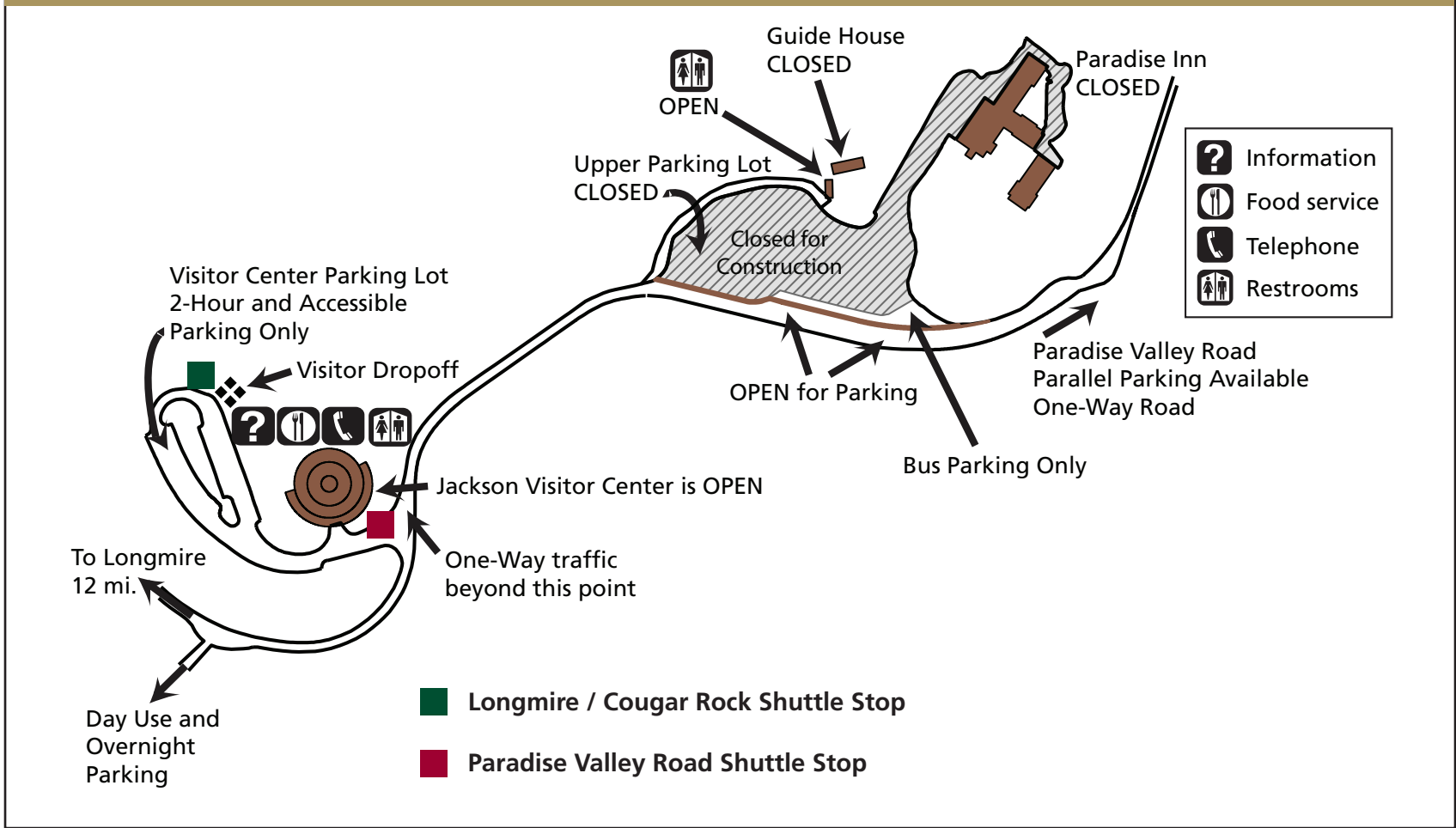
Construction needs have reduced parking by approximately half in the immediate Paradise area. A free shuttle is available Friday - Sunday and holidays for those parked in overflow parking on the Paradise Valley Road or parking at Cougar Rock and Glacier Bridge. Please plan on dropping off passengers at the visitor center prior to parking and walking or riding the shuttle back up.

- Park at Cougar Rock Picnic Area or in the parking area just west of Glacier Bridge and ride the shuttle up to Paradise.
- Day Use and Overnight Parking is available south of the visitor center lot. Loop A is reserved for overnight parking.
- Parking in the visitor center lot is limited to 2 hours and handicap accessible parking only.
- Overflow parking is available on the Paradise Valley Road with shuttle service available Friday through Sunday and holidays.
- The walkway on the north side of the upper parking lot, the main trailhead, and the restrooms below the Guide House are open.

- RVs and vehicles over 20 feet in length must park on the Paradise Valley Road, or see the shuttle schedule for shuttle options Friday through Sunday and Labor Day.
- Pets are not allowed on shuttles or trails.
- Camping is not permitted at Paradise. Check with a ranger for campground locations.
- Extreme congestion at Paradise limits maneuverability and turnarounds for RVs and larger vehicles.
- The road to Paradise will close at the Stevens Canyon Wye and traffic will be diverted east towards Stevens Canyon or west towards Longmire if parking fills.
- Cell phone service is not available in the park. Prearrange a meeting time and location prior to drop off.
- The main area of the upper parking lot is closed with limited parking available along the south side of the lot as indicated.
- East of the visitor center lot, the road becomes one-way requiring exiting down the Paradise Valley Road.

**Shuttles operate only on Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Labor Day  
June 15 - September 3.**  
**Schedules are available at entrance stations, visitor centers,  
& online at: [www.nps.gov/mora](http://www.nps.gov/mora)**

### Parking and Shuttle Stops



## The Future of Historic Paradise

How would you like to see inside Mount Rainier's volcano, peep beneath the winter snowpack any time of year, and explore Native American ties to the mountain? At the Paradise Visitor Center, currently under construction, you will be able to do all this and more! The new visitor center will replace the existing Henry M. Jackson Visitor Center. Not only will the Paradise Visitor Center meet accessibility standards and operate more efficiently, it will also be compatible with the park's National Historic Landmark District. Construction of the new facility began in 2006 and will be completed in late 2008.

Paradise Inn has witnessed nearly 100 years of change. Visiting the Inn, one can step back to the time when it bustled with tourists in long skirts and woolen traveling suits. Today, the Inn is a National

Historic Landmark. After 89 years of wear and tear, seismic improvements are required and foundations need shoring up. As structural improvements are made, the charm and historic significance of the structure will be maintained through historic rehabilitation work. Rehabilitation of the Inn began in 2006 and will reopen in May 2008.

During this summer's construction season the number of parking spaces at Paradise will be reduced significantly. To assure easy access to the Jackson Visitor Center and Paradise trail system, a free shuttle system will operate in and around the Paradise area from June 15 through September 3.

We appreciate your patience as we work to restore historic Paradise.